

### **REMARKS**

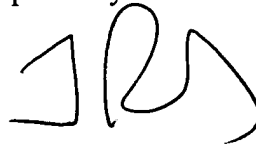
Claims 1-19 were pending in this application. With entry of this response, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his consideration relating to the prior rejections, which were withdrawn. In the current Office Action, the Examiner raised a single rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. According to the Examiner, the phrase, "Obtaining a piece of root tissue or extract thereof" lacks written description support in the specification. The Examiner invites Applicants to identify the textual support for this subject matter.

In response, Applicants point the Examiner to Example 2 in the specification, which describes the isolation of root samples from tissue culture plants. Two main roots were sampled per plant. The roots were extracted and run through the PCR based assays that are subsequently described in the examples. Also, throughout the specification, the text describes "screening the root tissue" for transformed events using PCR-based assays. One of skill in the art would understand that a PCR-based assay will generally be run on a sample extracted from a target tissue. In this case, that extract is obtained by sampling a piece of root tissue. Thus, in view of the Applicants teachings in the specification, one of skill in the art would readily appreciate that Applicants were in possession of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

If any further clarification is required to obtain allowance of the claims, Applicants would appreciate an opportunity to discuss the matter in an interview with the Examiner, as it appears the case is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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